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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Reasons for the Failure of
Hashim Atasi to Form a CabinetPLACE 25X1A6a
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1. Source states that, contrary to the Damascus press reports to the effect that Hashim Atasi surrendered his opportunity to form a new government because of Nationalist insistence upon inclusion in his cabinet of Nabih Asmah, Lufti Haffer, Sabri Asali and Michel Ilian, the major factor in Atasi's failure was President Quwwatli's refusal to accept the following conditions to Atasi's assumption of the premiership:
 - a. New elections.
 - b. Charges of malfeasance and trials for the former cabinet ministers.

2. Hashim Atasi had been persuaded to present the President with these conditions by Adnan Atasi, who had also persuaded him to ask President Quwwatli to sign a decree embodying these conditions, which Hashim Atasi could make public after his cabinet had been formed. After refusal by President Quwwatli to accept such conditions, no serious attempt was made by Atasi to form a new cabinet.

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